Hingham, Dec. 11 1836.

My dear Miſs Weston,

I return you by Mr. Lincoln, twelve of the eighteen bags, which I brought with me from Boston. The other six, I presume you have received. I was apprehensive that I should not be able to finish them all in season for the Fair, & sent six to be made by some of the ladies, who are engaged here in Abolition. I sent for them last evening to send them up with these, and ascertained that they had already been returned to you. I regretted after I commenced making them, that I did not retain the whole as I found them very easily & quickly made & should have been able to have finished all of them myself. I am afraid you will not like my taste in the strings, but I was confined in my choice & could do no better. If you designed the brown bags for *friendly* ladies, as I have just thought, you might from the appropriateneſs of the color the blue strings will be very *mal à propos*. If I had thought of having blue strings, when I began to make them, I should have lined the top with blue silk and have had a frill and then they would have been very pretty. I hope you will realize all and more, from your fair than you anticipate & that the money may do much good.

I perceive by the yesterday's Register, that the ladies of New York & Boston have formed a society to aſsist in educating the coloured people in Liberia. I hope the benevolent ladies who are undertaking these grand enterprises for the benefit of the blacks. (I beg your pardon Miss Weston, I ought to have said for our coloured bretheren) will not be excited to act by hostile or rival feelings. We see so much pride, ambition & desire of distinction, intermingled with benevolent purposes, that I am often reminded of a sentence, which I used frequently to hear repeated when I was young in the prayers of my minister. It was this, Forgive the iniquity of holy things.

I have nothing new or interesting to write you of a local nature, Miss Weston, Mr. Brooks is endeavoring to excite the people of this town & vicinity upon the subject of Education. He gave a lecture last sunday evening upon the Prussian system, & this evening he is to tell us how far it may be introduced into the schools in Plymouth Co. In the mean time, he has lectured at Plymouth & has been invited to lecture at New Bedford. Mr Smith thinks he is too severe upon the teachers as a class, but in other respects is pleased. I have not heard him yet. Mrs Brooks appears to be fast passing away. Our Thanksgiving dragged a little heavily after you left us that morning. Mr Smith had a pleasant time at Abbington. Maria & I attended church and heard a ~~te~~ sermon from this text, Lift up now thine eyes and look from the place where thou art. A fine text and a sermon so-so. Our vacation has expired & the boys begin to collect around us. These gatherings are very pleasant after the vacation when the boys are happy and appear anxious to improve. What beautiful weather! Our winter so far proves auspicious, but I now recollect that you do not dread the cold, only the heat. Your sincere friend

E. A. S. Smith.

Sabbath evening. I have just returned from Mr. B's lecture: the main very good indeed. Mrs. S., I perceive, has told you where the shoe pinched before. However, I still think I was right in my objection. — I like the Abington people very much. They gave me a good congregation, and were very attentive to the speaker. — I am very happy that Mrs. S. has done something for your Fair. We are, both of us, I think, true hearted abolitionists; but I suppose you will not acknowledge this, till we join your Society. Here we differ. I will not, however, discuss the question. I will tell you the very important studies in which I have been engaged the greater part of my vacation. Until thanksgiving I was very temperately engaged in Temperance: since that time, old Warton with his scraps from Beowulf, Jeoffrey of Monmouth, Turpin &c. and his references to the Spenser, Scott, Byron, Homer, Theocritus, &c. has given me such draughts of Odin's mead and Juno's ambrosia, that I am not much better off, than these respectable personages are represented frequently to have been. I still, however have some taste left yet; and I can perceive, however different the ingredients of which these draughts have been composed, that there is an enlivening spirit in the whole. Methinks as I drink from these poetic [historic] fountains, that my mental eye is purged of its film, and that I can look on the past and thence on the future, with a clearer vision and a fuller confidence in the wise providence of God. Excuse this hasty scribble. It is scarcely legible. I wanted to write fine, in order to get a great deal into a small space; and it is fine with a vengeance. Your sincere friend, Increase S. Smith.

Ms. A.9.2.8 p78

How could Warton refer to Scott's Byron? Perhaps my uncle could answer this question, who said that he could remember when his elder brother was born, because he heard the keys rattle in the cradle. Warton's Editor, however, refers as I have stated.

Once more,
Yours friend
J. S. Smith

Miss Caroline Weston,
Boston,
Mass.
U.S.A.

Mr + Mrs Smith
1836